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# FIELD CROPS

POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND STOCKS



May 16, 2000

### **FLORIDA**

SPRING: Growers in the Hastings area, who live in the counties of Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns, expect to dig 5,100,000 hundredweight of potatoes this spring. Harvest acreage for the area is set at 17,000 acres, down 4,000 acres or 19 percent from the 21,000 acres dug a year ago. Yield is expected to average 300 hundredweight per acre, 30 hundredweight below last year's yield of 330 hundredweight per acre. Producers in the Hastings area are reporting very good yields with both chipper and table stock being dug.

Spring crop production for other producers outside the Hastings area is expected to total 1,890,000 hundredweight equal to the 1999 production. Acreage to be dug is set at 7,000 acres, also equal to a year ago. Yield is expected to average 270 hundredweight per acre.

### **UNITED STATES**

SPRING: Program changes for crop year 2000 combine Alabama spring production with the summer estimate and will be published in July. North Carolina combined their spring and summer estimates into the spring forecast. Spring production is now forecast at 22.5 million cwt, down 11 percent from comparable totals last year but 7 percent above 1998. Harvest should be taken from an estimated 80,100 acres, down 5 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 281 cwt per acre, down 6 percent from last year's comparable yield. The May 1 forecast is 5 percent higher than April.

Acreage in California was reduced 700 acres from the April 1 forecast to 18,800 acres, 1 percent below last year. The yield was boosted 15 cwt, resulting in a production forecast of 6.67 million cwt, a gain of 1 percent from a month ago. Output will be down 12 percent from last year. Weather conditions stabilized in April, as yield prospects increased to 355 cwt per acre. Harvest should start in early May and continue through June. Arizona's acreage for harvest is forecast at 11,000 acres, up 15 percent from a year ago. Harvest is active. The average yield projection in Texas increased 10 cwt during April pushing production 4 percent above a month ago, however, production is 3 percent below last year. North Carolina's former summer crop will be included in the spring season estimate this year. Combined production figures indicate a slight reduction from last year. Growing conditions have been ideal for most fields.

## **POTATOES**

Seasonal			Y	ield	Production				
group and	Harv	Harvested		per acre		1 foduction			
State	1999	2000	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000		
			C	Cwt	1,000 cwt				
Spring									
Alabama 1/	1.6		175		221	280			
Arizona	9.6	11.0	315	290	2,268	3,024	3,190		
California	19.0	18.8	400	355	6,198	7,600	6,674		
Florida	28.0	24.0	315	291	7,358	8,820	6,990		
Hastings	21.0	17.0	330	300	5,758	6,930	5,100		
Other	7.0	7.0	270	270	1,600	1,890	1,890		
North Carolina 2/	16.5	17.0	200	200	3,325	3,300	3,400		
Texas	9.8	9.3	235	240	1,751	2,303	2,232		
Total	84.5	80.1	300	281	21.121	25.327	22,486		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>/ Alabama spring potatoes combined with summer in 2000. <sup>2</sup>/ North Carolina summer potatoes included with spring in 2000.

#### POTATO STOCKS DOWN 3 PERCENT

May 1, 2000 potato stocks totaled 85.7 million cwt, down 3 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 20 percent of fall production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 totaled 335 million cwt this season, down slightly from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. April disappearance of 41.9 million cwt was down 3 percent from last year but 1 percent above two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss of 29.9 million cwt was up 2 percent from last year and 17 percent above two years ago.

Processing of 1999 crop potatoes this season totaled 163 million cwt, down 3 percent from the 1998 crop but 5 percent above the 1997 crop. In April, processors in the eight major States used 17.3 million cwt of potatoes, down 6 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago.

Eastern States stored 4.89 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 2000, up 22 percent from a year ago and 2 percent above two years ago. Maine's holdings were up 16 percent, Pennsylvania's were up 3.5 times last year, while New York's stocks were off 47 percent from last year.

Central States accounted for 12.0 million cwt of potato stocks this May 1, down 32 percent from a year ago and 20 percent below 1998. North Dakota's stocks were off 52 percent from last year, Minnesota's stocks dropped 35 percent, and Wisconsin's stocks were down 23 percent. Michigan's stocks were up 63 percent from a year ago and the Nebraska - Ohio combination was nearly triple last year.

Western States held 68.8 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2000, up 4 percent from last year but 6 percent below 1998. Oregon's stocks were up 36 percent from a year ago, Washington was equal to last year, and Idaho's stocks were down 3 percent. Stocks in these three Northwest States were up 3 percent from last year and accounted for 70 percent of U. S. stocks. Colorado's stocks were up 12 percent and California's storage was up 22 percent from last year. Montana's stocks, mostly seed, were up 3 percent.

**POTATOES**: Quantity used for processing, eight States, 1997-99 <sup>1/</sup>

FOTATOES. Quantity used for processing, eight states, 1997-99									
State	Crop	То	To	То	То	То	То	То	Entire
State	year	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 2/	season
					1,000 c	wt			
Idaho and Malheur	1997	26,880	33,950	41,050	49,470	57,620	65,750		91,450
County, Oregon	1998	27,510	34,700	42,670	51,210	60,040	68,550	76,410	92,860
	1999	27,970	34,490	40,790	49,220	57,820	66,080		
Maine 3/	1997	1,250	1,720	2,265	2,735	3,355	3,900		5,870
	1998	1,430	1,935	2,530	2,985	3,595	4,180	4,705	5,945
	1999	1,375	1,670	2,310	2,995	3,640	4,340		
Washington and	1997	28,580	33,990	38,690	46,400	53,720	59,780		76,930
Other areas, Oregon	1998	33,630	38,890	45,650	53,290	60,930	67,180	74,190	83,730
	1999	33,440	39,620	45,500	53,350	61,080	67,230		
Other States 4/	1997	11,645	13,960	17,115	19,905	23,515	26,365		37,842
	1998	11,615	14,550	18,150	20,900	24,710	27,855	31,635	37,662
	1999	11,785	14,495	17,295	19,970	23,480	25,670		·
Total	1997	68,355	83,620	99,120	118,510	138,210	155,795		212,092
	1998	74,185	90,075	109,000	128,385	149,275	167,765	186,940	220,197
	1999	74,570	90,275	105,895	125,535	146,020	163,320	, -	,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1/</sup> Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, MI, MN, ND, and WI. <sup>2/</sup> Data not available prior to 1998. <sup>3/</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only. <sup>4/</sup> MI, MN, ND, and WI.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks on May 1, 1999-00 1/

State		Crop of 1998		Crop of 1999			
	Production	Stocks May 1, 1999 <sup>2/</sup>	Percent of production	Production	Stocks May 1, 2000 <sup>2/</sup>	Percent of production	
	1,00	1,000 cwt		1,000 cwt		Percent	
California	3,708	900	24	4,005	1,100	27	
Colorado	25,360	6,600	26	25,762	7,400	29	
Idaho	138,000	37,000	27	133,330	36,000	27	
Maine	18,060	3,800	21	17,813	4,400	25	
Michigan	14,648	800	5	14,963	1,300	9	
Minnesota	21,170	4,300	20	18,020	2,800	16	
Montana	3,180	290	9	3,325	300	9	
Nebraska	8,175			8,904			
New York	7,290	75	1	6,758	40	1	
North Dakota	28,670	7,500	26	26,400	3,600	14	
Ohio	1,200			987			
Oregon	26,229	7,000	27	28,020	9,500	34	
Pennsylvania	3,360	130	4	3,080	450	15	
Washington	93,225	14,500	16	95,200	14,500	15	
Wisconsin	30,895	4,800	16	34,000	3,700	11	
Other States		200			580		
Total 15 States	423,170	87,895	21	420,567	85,670	20	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1/</sup> Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2000 potatoes; 1999 crop seed usage totaled 29.5 million cwt.<sup>2/</sup> Nebraska and Ohio combined into "Other States".